

## 7 FAM 1530 VOTING ACTION PLAN

*(CT:CON-407; 06-29-2012)*  
*(Office of Origin: CA/OCS/L)*

### 7 FAM 1531 TRAINING

*(CT:CON-337; 06-28-2010)*

- a. You play a critical role in assisting citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to request registration and a ballot to vote absentee. You also play an important role in training your voting assistant(s) and volunteers so they can assist citizens in registration and voting. Downloadable online training tools are available through the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Web site. You are encouraged to hold voting information briefings for your volunteers and/or U.S. citizens/voters in your consular district.
- b. **Workshops:** In addition to online training there are voting assistance workshops organized by FVAP to help Voting Assistance Officers and voters better understand the entire process.
- c. **Funding:** Funding for travel to these workshops should be included in your post's budget. The chief voting action officer will keep you apprised of the schedule for workshops as they are developed.

### 7 FAM 1532 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

*(CT:CON-337; 06-28-2010)*

- a. Initiate outreach programs tailored to your post and the local American community. For example, consider using the following to spread voting information:
  - (1) Embassy staff and country team meetings;
  - (2) Welcome packets;
  - (3) Voter registration drives;

- (4) Wardens;
- (5) Town hall meetings;
- (6) Fourth of July celebration;
- (7) Overseas citizens voters' week (even-numbered years);
- (8) Post Web site;
- (9) Prison visits; and

**Note: Whether or not a U.S. citizen incarcerated abroad or convicted of a felony abroad can vote in a State or local election is a matter of the laws of the State of residence in the United States.**

- (10) Workshops for large companies, overseas schools, study abroad programs, religious institutions and other special interest groups.
- b. Use organizations' Web sites and network using voting volunteers in the U.S. citizen community as multipliers to get out the word about voting. Start early to reach remote and unfamiliar first-time voters or those who may be unaware of their right to participate in the voting process.
- c. You may want to reach out to the official U.S. Government community as follows:
- (1) Country team meetings;
  - (2) Newsletters;
  - (3) Bulletin boards;
  - (4) Staff meetings;
  - (5) Welcome kit; and
  - (6) E-mail.
- d. You may best reach the private U.S. citizen community as follows:
- (1) Warden messages;
  - (2) Post Web site;
  - (3) Media Web sites;
  - (4) Expatriate blogs;

- (5) Embassy monthly newsletter to U.S. citizen community;
- (6) Town hall meetings; and
- (7) English-language newspapers and radio.

## 7 FAM 1533 CAUTIONS

*(CT:CON-124; 01-19-2006)*

- a. You must not provide partisan information on candidates and issues to civilians, military personnel or their family members. 5 U.S.C. 7321 - 5 U.S.C. 7326 (The Hatch Act). (See 7 FAM 1560).
- b. **You should never offer an opinion as to whether or not a person is eligible to vote. That is a question to be addressed by State election officials.**

## 7 FAM 1534 DEVELOPING A VOTING ACTION PLAN

*(CT:CON-337; 06-28-2010)*

- a. The following are suggestions for developing a voting action plan: Create a voting calendar and publicize it. Include, for example:
  - (1) Town hall meetings;
  - (2) Registration deadlines;
  - (3) Primary elections;
  - (4) General elections; and
  - (5) Mailing deadlines for ballots.
- b. Advise voters to contact the Voter Information Center that has toll-free access from many countries for military and civilian personnel. The caller can be transferred directly to the office of his or her elected officials in the U.S. Congress, State governor and State chief election official, or speak directly to a FVAP representative.
- c. Post notices in the American citizens services (ACS) unit giving your voting assistance officer's telephone number, e-mail address, hours of availability to the public and upcoming voter outreach efforts.

- d. Add voting information to your Web site. In coordination with DOD's FVAP, CA/OCS/ACS, the Department's Bureau of Public Diplomacy and your post's public affairs officer, you may disseminate accurate nonpartisan information through the media, community newsletters, and post publications to expand global and local voter education outreach efforts.

**For Example ...**

**U.S. Embassy Dublin Absentee Voting**

**U.S. Embassy Stockholm Absentee Voting**

- e. **Refer voters to their particular State requirements** (e.g., residency requirements, registration forms and ballots) as they vary greatly from State to State and election to election.
- f. Display motivational posters and calendars, and make available Voting Assistance Guides.
- g. Because the use of electronic media to transmit registration forms and ballots is changing rapidly, it is best to refer to online information frequently for the latest requirements. Update information on your Web sites by reviewing the FVAP Web site, the "Voting Information Newsletter," and Voting Information News Releases frequently.

## **7 FAM 1535 THROUGH 1539 UNASSIGNED**